

Solutions

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AaSys Group will be closed on the Following Days:

- **Thursday, November 26, 2020 in observance of Thanksgiving**
- **Friday, November 27, 2020 AaSys Helpdesk will close at 3PM**
- **Thursday, December 24, 2020 AaSys Helpdesk will close at 3PM**
- **Friday, December 25, 2020 in observance of Christmas Day**
- **Thursday, December 31, 2020 AaSys Helpdesk will close at 3PM**
- **Friday, January 1, 2021 in observance of New Year's Day**

“Black Friday 2020 may not have the same hype as previous years but hackers are definitely not letting up. Bad actors are gearing up for a potential windfall and an early Christmas gift by using old and new tricks.”

Holiday Scams: E-Skimming

It's the holiday season and due to the pandemic, many will be doing their shopping online this year. But the same precautions still apply. Black Friday 2020 may not have the same hype as previous years but hackers are definitely not letting up. Bad actors are gearing up for a potential windfall and an early Christmas gift by using old and new tricks. One of those tricks is E-Skimming.

Credit card skimming has been around for eons. Years ago, credit card skimmers were physical malicious card reader devices that were installed to real payment terminals so that they could harvest data from every person swiping their card. They were usually found at gas stations and ATMs. These types of devices required the thief to go back to the compromised machine to manually pick up the file containing all the stolen data. The file would then allow them to create cloned cards or just break into bank accounts to steal money. Also, it was extremely hard to detect because the skimmers did not prevent the ATM or credit card reader from functioning properly. This prompted many banks and credit card companies to change the type of cards they issued to now include a chip reader using the EMV technology, potentially improving security of the cards and avoiding skimming.

Fast forward to today, and the once physical skimmer device has made its way to the virtual world. We live in a digital era where literally everything can be done online, and stealing is no different. The virtual alternative to credit card skimming is called e-skimming or web skimming.

Web skimming is a common class of attacks generally aimed at online shoppers. The principle is quite simple: malicious code is injected into the compromised site, which collects and sends user-entered data to a cybercriminal resource. If the attack is successful, the cybercriminals gain access to shoppers' payment information. Hackers have been skimming since 2016 and since then it has intensified, even more so since the pandemic.

These attacks are not always done by sophisticated hackers; some have been done by low-level hackers who purchased e-skimming tool kits sold on the Dark Web. Many experts have warned about this type of attack throughout the years especially during the holidays when online shopping usually increases.



The FBI says e-skimming has been on its radar for nearly seven years but the crime is growing because cybercriminals are sharing the malware online and becoming more sophisticated. Well known retailers such as Macy's have fallen victim to E-skimming. Any retailer with a heavy online presence and accepts payments can be subject to these types of attacks.

E-skimming attacks will remain one of today's top threats and there is no magic solution to stop it. But during this holiday season and beyond here are some ways to help protect against it:

- Keep software updated.
- Change default credentials and create strong, unique passwords on all systems.
- Implement multi-factor authentication.
- Do not click on links and be wary of email attachments in messages.
- Segment and segregate networks and functions.

Continue to stay vigilant while enjoying the Holidays!

Sources:
<https://www.zdnet.com/article/fbi-issues-warning-about-e-skimming-magecart-attacks/>
<https://www.cbc.com/2020/01/31/e-skimming-cyberattack-is-growing-along-with-online-shopping.html>



5 Reasons Network Assessments are Necessary

After a certain number of miles, your car is scheduled for a checkup. This ensures that you catch potential problems ahead of time that can possibly leave you stranded on the side of the road. It also makes sure your car is running at its optimal performance. The same can be said for a network. Network assessments are essentially checkups to assess the health of your IT infrastructure. They are crucial for best performance and when left unchecked, can lead to possible unintended mishaps.

Network assessments provide a comprehensive understanding of the existing environment, including insights into new technologies that may optimize employees' performance as well as recommendations on improvements such as network consolidation, simplification, or automation. Additionally, a network assessment can provide long-term goals for network growth and provide alignment of technical solutions that have been implemented to patch trouble areas but might not have advanced the long-range goals.

Here are five reasons why Network Assessments are necessary and why organizations should make them a priority:

1. Security - Protecting your network is always at the top of the list; but it is hard to defend against cyberattacks without knowing the inner workings of a network infrastructure. Covid-19 has led to many employees working from home, and being able to view user behaviors and interactions can help spot vulnerabilities that can be addressed and possibly stop an attack before it happens.

2. Get a good look inside - An in-depth look of the current state of an IT infrastructure can help ensure management and IT professionals are making informed decisions about network maintenance and upgrades. When accurate evaluations of current infrastructure assets are available, crucial decisions can be made to improve survivability of optimal systems, and phase out those that are not up to par.

3. Helps create a road map for your IT systems - Being able to have a detailed view of a network allows IT professionals to create a road map that can lead to modernization and a virtualized infrastructure.

4. Potential cost savings - Every organization has a budget they have to adhere to. Whenever there can be a cost savings benefit, everyone is happy! A network assessment opens the door to implementing new tools, such as cloud computing, which can provide tremendous savings.

5. Improve protocols - Assessments can expose vulnerabilities in your current operations, which can lead to protocol improvements. Doing a deep-dive into how users view and access data on a network can help prevent data breaches and ensure the organization remains in compliance.

AaSys sees great value in performing network assessments, gaining basic knowledge of how a network infrastructure is put together, and identifying critical systems. If you need assistance with a network assessment or would like more information on how it can benefit your organization, please reach out to your AaSys Account Executive today!

Sources:
<https://www.burwood.com/blog-archive/network-assessment-6-reasons#:~:text=A%20network%20assessment%20is%20an,consolidation%2C%20simplification%2C%20or%20automation.>



Well Wishes to Max Tipton!

Join AaSys Group in offering well wishes to Max Tipton, as he embarks on his “second” retirement at the end of this year!

Many of you who know Max are familiar with his storied background. From serving as a bank president in Oklahoma (complete with motorcycle and long flowing locks!), to his long tenure running a CSI Data Center, Max has always had his focus on taking care of clients. Max understood that if you take care of clients, everything works out well for everyone at the end.

Max joined AaSys nearly ten years ago, as we were able to lure him out of retirement. Since that time, he has shared his knowledge with both our clients and the Account Executive Team at AaSys. Over this time, he has visited most of the community banks in West Virginia (as well as most of Mexican restaurants and Italian eateries along the way!)

Max, thank you for all the years of teamwork and hard work! You will be missed! Stay in touch!

